

Personal Property	814	62,710,000	.79
TOTAL	9,177	\$7,895,988,000	100.00%

The tax rate for fiscal year 2005 was \$8.40/1,000 of valuation. The levy limit was \$66,326,547 and the Town levied \$66,326,299. The levy included three debt exclusion totaling \$2,315,519 and new growth of \$1,116,335. There were 140 tax abatement applications for the fiscal year and 71 were granted some adjustment in their assessed value and corresponding abatement.

The total Statutory Exemptions for fiscal year 2005 were:

Exemption Type	Count	Total Tax Amount
Clause 22 – Veterans	110	\$41,304
Clause 37 – Blind	21	\$10,500
Clause 41A – Deferral	49	\$241,928
Clause 41C – Elderly	44	\$33,000
Community Preservation Exemption	72	\$2,756
Senior Work Program	10	\$7,303

Taxpayers experiencing financial hardship are encouraged to consult with the assessors office to determine eligibility for deferrals and exemptions as options to allow them to remain in their homes.

The total number of Motor Vehicle Excise Bills issued in fiscal 2005 was, 14,232 which generated \$3,779,081 in tax receivables.

Office Staff:

Donna McCabe	Chief Assessor
Teri Cheschi	Administrative Assistant
Marjorie Curran	Secretary

Respectfully submitted,
 Board of Assessors
 Marlene Rehkamp O'Brien, Chair
 Stephen D. Mahoney
 David C. Chapin

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH July 1, 2004-June 30, 2005

DEPARTMENT MISSION

The mission of the Wellesley Board of Health (BOH) is to protect and improve the health and quality of life of the Town's residents and workforce. Under the supervision and guidance of the elected Board of Health, the Health Department's professional staff assesses the public health needs of the Wellesley community and addresses those needs by providing communicable disease surveillance and prevention, health promotion initiatives and public health nursing services. Other important functions include promulgating and enforcing local

and state sanitary regulations, providing emergency preparedness and response planning, reducing environmental health hazards and providing community health education. The Board of Health provides essential and complementary public health services, and leadership on Town health and human service matters.

STAFF

In FY05, the three-member elected Board of Health was comprised of Shepard Cohen, Chairman; Linda Perlmutter, Vice Chair; and a new member, Marcia Testa Simonson, Secretary. Dr. Testa Simonson was appointed by the Selectmen to fulfill the unexpired term of Dr. Lisa Stone. Dr. Stone moved from Wellesley in June 2005. The Health Department staff consisted of one full time director, two full time environmental health specialists, a full time administrative assistant, a part time health communication specialist and three part time nurses.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLANNING

The Health Department is involved in local, regional and state bioterrorism and emergency preparedness and response planning. In March 2005, the Health Department received a certificate from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), "In recognition of meeting the criteria for Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) and its outstanding contributions in local public health preparedness efforts. PPHR is a national program that aims to prepare staff of local public health agencies to respond and protect the public's health through a competency based training and certification program. Wellesley Health Department volunteered as a pilot site for PPHR.

The Health Department Director co-chairs the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), which assesses and addresses emergency preparedness in the Town. The group drills regularly to test response protocols and identify areas for additional training. In June 2005, the LEPC conducted one of the state's first cross-jurisdictional drills with neighboring Needham. Much knowledge was gained, as was the increased value of networking between the towns.

The Health Department through its active participation in Massachusetts Department of Public Health Region 4B Preparedness Committee focuses on regional aspects of emergency preparedness including collaborating with member communities to pool resources, provide mutual aid, conduct surveillance, and address hospital linkages. Members of the BOH and staff participate in state working groups focusing on critical capacities such as risk communication, the strategic national stockpile and education and training working groups.

In FY05, the Health Department continued to update its Biological and Chemical Response Emergency Planning and Response plan, which is included in the Town's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

In FY05, the Wellesley and Needham Health Departments continued its Memorandum of Understanding (voted on at an FY04 annual Town meeting and signed by the Board of Selectmen), which provides joint planning, training, staff and administrative departmental coverage.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

This program area encompasses risk assessment, protection from potential and actual hazards, prevention of disease and injury, and the promulgation and enforcement of regulations. Priority areas include:

Food Sanitation

The environmental health specialists focus on inspecting all food establishments in Wellesley, with emphasis on those that present the highest risk to public health. In FY05, 150 food establishment permits were issued. 370 inspections and re-inspections were conducted at these facilities. Twelve (12) complaints were registered and promptly investigated; appropriate measures were taken. Three restaurants had their food establishment permits temporarily suspended, due to critical violations of the food code. 12 new licenses and 14 temporary permits were issued.

Housing

The Health Department staff continued to address the housing needs and concerns of residents. In FY05, the Health Department received 77 calls related to housing issues. A total of 138 actions including inspections and re-inspections were taken to address issues related to the calls.

Swimming Pools and Beaches

The Health Department monitors the Town's swimming water quality and ensures compliance with State sanitary code pursuant to local pools and beaches. In FY05 16 semi-public pool permits were issued. 64 inspections were conducted. Weekly water samples from Morse's Pond were taken and analyzed to monitor E-coli levels. No problems were found at Morse's pond.

Camps

In FY05, the Health Department licensed 32 camps that provided recreational activities for 5820 children. Camp operators reported a decline in the number of campers in FY05. A rigorous inspection process was conducted to ensure the safety of the children enrolled in camp activities. All camps were inspected at least twice. The Health Department held a free seminar to educate camp operators and staff on safe camp operations and compliance with State camp regulations.

Mosquito Control and West Nile Virus

The Health Department and the Department of Public Works collaborated with the East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project to monitor and control the mosquito population and minimize the risk of mosquito borne illnesses such as West Nile Virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis Virus (EEEV). In a seasonal plan to reduce mosquito breeding, larvicide packets were placed in catch basins throughout Town. In FY 05, no birds or mosquito pools tested positive for WNV. Continued education on personal protection measures and elimination of mosquito breeding areas remained a primary focus of public education.

Rabies Control

The Health Department continued to coordinate rabies control measures with the Wellesley Animal Control Officer. By statute, any pet or farm animal that may have had contact with an animal suspected of carrying the rabies virus must be ordered confined by the animal inspector. 10-day quarantines were issued to 17 dogs that bit people, 2 cats that bit people and 3 dogs that bit other animals. 45-day quarantines were issued to 3 dogs, 11 cats and 3 horses. Six-month quarantines were issued to 11 cats. 12 wildlife specimens were submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Virology Laboratory for rabies testing; 5 were positive and 7 were negative.

Additional Services

The Health Department issues annual licenses to facilities offering tanning and massage therapy. Twenty one (21) massage therapy and two tanning establishment permits were granted in FY05. The Health Department also monitors lead and asbestos abatement projects.

In FY05, 33 rodent inspections were performed as part of the Building Department's requirements for the demolition of an existing structure. Several of these inspections involved the abandonment of existing subsurface sewage disposal systems thereby decreasing the number of systems in town.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

This program area encompasses assessing, developing and implementing policies, programs and services that address community public health needs. Priority areas include:

Public Health Nursing Services

During FY05, the Health Department's public health nurses made approximately 250 home visits and provided essential "safety net" services to Wellesley's homebound individuals; all of whom were ineligible for, or did not have access to services from any other health care provider. The *KeepWell* clinics operated at five different sites around town on a regular monthly schedule. Community residents made a total of 600 visits to the clinic in FY05. The Health Department continues to manage a vaccine depot for our community healthcare providers and residents. An inventory of vaccines worth more than \$500,000 is processed annually and dispensed to area practices as well as residents. In FY05, the Health Department immunized 1640 adults (including the workforce) and children, including 1490 flu vaccinations.

Communicable Disease

Health Department nurses conducted surveillance of 68 cases of communicable disease. They also collaborated with Wellesley public school nurses in the management of 17 cases of Pertussis (up from 13 cases in FY04). Two active cases of Tuberculosis were monitored.

Program for Fall Prevention

Seniors are at high risk of injuries from falling, often due to medication mismanagement and/or an unsafe living environment. Therefore, the Wellesley Health Department was awarded a 2-year grant that commenced in October 2003 from Springwell, a senior social service agency, to initiate the “Wellesley Health Department Medication and Fall Prevention Assessment Project.” During FY05, nurses from the Health Department conducted assessments of 21 seniors living in public housing and 18 seniors in their own homes/other accommodations to evaluate their medication management and safety of their surroundings. The Health Department also collaborated with the Council on Aging and Wellesley Housing Authority (WHA) for referral of at-risk seniors. Modifications were made to reduce the risk of falling including, adjustment of self-medication scheduling, installation of grab bars and railings, improved lighting and reduction of clutter.

The Health Department also collaborated with the WHA to improve conditions in WHA public housing units. WHA made modifications in the units based on the findings of Health Department assessments. During FY05 (the second year of the grant cycle), the Project was available to assist all Wellesley seniors, not just those residing in public housing.

Community Awareness Program

The Health Department participated in the *Save-A-Heart* committee comprised of a community advocate and staff from the Fire, Police, as well as the Health Department. In February 2005, they presented a program to a large audience at the Wellesley Free Library. The program focused on how to help someone who has suffered a heart attack or sudden cardiac arrest. Information on CPR, Automated, External Defibrillators (AED) and the chain of survival was provided. The Health Department disseminated lists citing the location of AED's in Wellesley. The list is available on the Town and Health Department websites.

Employee Health/Wellness Programs

In FY05, The Health Department actively encouraged Town employees to adopt healthier lifestyle habits. They provided cardiac and diabetes screenings, blood pressure checks, nutritional and other health related counseling. Referrals were made when necessary.

In May 2005, the Health and Human Resources departments collaborated on a walking program for Town of Wellesley employees. The program offered employees a cardiovascular screening and a 30-day walking challenge, along with accompanying collateral materials, walking paths from specific town buildings and a “goody pack” including water, sunscreen, lip balm with SPF and insect repellent. The 30-day walking program is the first installation of a wellness program in the Town. The next phase in late summer/early fall 2005 will offer a 90-day walking program along with a nutrition component.

The Health Department participated in the Town's annual “Right to Know” training for DPW and new employees. The Health Director and staff provided information on communicable diseases, seasonal illnesses and disease prevention.

Mental Health

Two local mental health service agencies, The Human Relations Service, and the Charles River Association for Retarded Citizens received funding subsidization by the Town through the Board of Health, to provide affordable, quality, mental health and counseling services for all Town residents. In January 2004, the Board of Health restructured the provision of mental health services. The high school outreach worker position was included in services provided by Human Relations Service. In June 2004 the Wellesley Housing Authority assumed responsibility for the Resident Services Coordinator (who is also partially funded by the Board of Health). The Health Department in collaboration with the WHA develops programs and initiatives to address health related issues of residents in public housing.

Senior Services

Health Department staff continued its participation in a steering committee committed to providing education and resources to seniors in the community. For the last several years, the committee convened "It Takes a Town" resource fairs and luncheon presentations that addressed the concerns of Wellesley seniors. In FY05, the committee focused on updating and editing the Wellesley Elder Resource Guide. The Guide lists and describes services and resources available to all seniors in the community. The Guide is useful to relatives and caregivers as well.

Wellesley Youth

In FY05, staff from the Health Department continued to co-facilitate the "Thinking About Drinking" course designed to reduce high risk underage drinking. The course was incorporated into the 10th grade curriculum and is now a required course for sophomores at the High School. The course is a successful collaboration between the Health Department, Youth Commission and the High School.

In FY05, the Board of Health concluded its collaboration with the Education Development Center in Newton on a federally funded three year research grant to implement and evaluate the use of a social norm marketing campaign to reduce high risk drinking in the Wellesley and Needham high schools. The study represented the first formal study of this approach in a high school population and will contribute important scientific information, as well as directly benefit the Wellesley community and its youth.

In May 2005, the Health Department and Wellesley Youth Commission presented tobacco education sessions at Tenacre Day School. The Health Department, Youth Commission and American Cancer Society also provided tobacco related materials and displays at the Middle School.

Tobacco Control

In FY05 compliance inspections of all 20 tobacco retailers were conducted (using a minor). A total of 34 attempts to purchase tobacco were made and two sales to minor occurred. Fines were issued to the retailers that sold and one establishment had its license to sell tobacco suspended for seven days.